



On **Wednesday November 10th, 7:00pm** at 229 Bruce Street S., (Cenotaph) The Beaver Valley Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will be holding a first ever Candlelight Vigil for those who have to work and school kids to attend and observe Remembrance Day.

Thursday November 11th, 11am will be the regular ceremony at the Cenotaph and **1pm** will be the Ravenna Ceremony.

All health protocols will be observed during these ceremonies.

Community Cares Christmas Dinner

Hosted by St. George's Anglican Church a traditional turkey and ham Christmas dinner with all the fixings is planned for December 16th and December 18th.

- 250 complimentary meals will be served through the St. George's Cares and BVO programs, Dec 16th.
- 150 community meals will be available for purchase at \$25 each, with pickup December 18th. Meals can be ordered through the St. George's website:

www.parishofthebluemountains.ca or by phone: 519-599-3047
Online and telephone orders will open on Monday, November 15th. Donations and sponsorships to support this program are welcome.



International days and weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool.

Kindness Day, November 13th

World Kindness Day is a global day that promotes the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. The purpose of this day, celebrated on November 13 of each year, is to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us all together.

National Child Day, November 20th

National Child Day has been celebrated across Canada since 1993 to commemorate the United Nations' adoption of two documents centered on children's rights: the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1959, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989. By ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, Canada made a commitment to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect. This commitment includes the opportunity for children to have a voice, be protected from harm and be provided with their basic needs and every opportunity to reach their full potential.

International Volunteer Day, December 5th

The Day provides an opportunity for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, share their values, and promote their work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, government authorities and the private sector.

The UN Volunteers (UNV) programme organizes events to mark the Day annually. UNV mobilizes thousands of volunteers every year, advocates for the recognition of volunteers, and works with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming.

International Volunteer Day was designated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.

- 1 Send an uplifting text to a friend or family member.
- 2 Let that guy merge into traffic with a wave and a smile.
- 3 Include intentional moments of kindness, laughter and delight in your daily routine.
- 4 Go *slightly* outside of our comfort zone at least once a day to make someone smile.
- 5 Share a compliment with a co-worker or friend.
- 6 Reach out to a family member you haven't spoken to in awhile.
- 7 Treat someone to a cup of coffee (a friend, stranger, or even yourself).

#WorldKindnessDay
#MakeKindnessTheNorm
www.randomactsofkindness.org

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, is GIVING TUESDAY

Join this worldwide event supporting local charities. Please consider donating to **Events for Life (EFL)**

Enriching the lives of individuals with special needs in the Blue Mountains community

www.eventsfor.life

www.GivingTuesday.ca

Current Situation: Day 596

Follow the 3 W's – Wash hands frequently, Watch distance (ideally 6ft), and Wear face covering correctly, and the 2 A's - Avoid Crowds

Testing and case counts reported as of 23:59 hrs, November 2nd

All data is preliminary and subject to change. Future situation reports will be updated accordingly.

- 6 new cases reported in past 24 hours in Grey Bruce
- 35 active cases
- 125 active high-risk contacts
- 2426 confirmed cases
- 2364 resolved cases
- 2 confirmed local active case(s) hospitalized in Grey Bruce
3 confirmed cases hospitalized outside of Grey Bruce
- 15 deaths in Grey Bruce
- +1 death related to a Grey Bruce resident that acquired the infection and was treated outside of Grey Bruce
- +7 deaths related to Grey Bruce residents that acquired the infection in Grey Bruce however passed away outside of Grey Bruce
- 120 cases reported in health care workers; workers living in Grey Bruce and working both in and outside Grey Bruce

Vaccines -

1,132 COVID-19 vaccines given in the past 7 days
243,161 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Grey/Bruce
Grey Bruce Health Unit, 101 17th Street East, Owen Sound
Phone: (519)376-9420, Ext. 1241 Fax: (519)376-0605
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Celebrating 90 Years

John Gammell, retired judge and founding member of The Georgian Peaks Ski Club, a seasonal resident of the Blue Mountains for the past 64 years turned 90 on October 28th.

Best Wishes Welcome

Send to info@visitblue.ca or call the
Review 519-599-3345



Sign up for the Weekly E-Newsletter of The Review at
www.visitblue.ca or receive 25 issues by Canada Post - \$50
email info@visitblue.ca or call 519-599-3345



Blue Mountains: Thornbury, Clarksburg, Craigeleith, Heathcote, Ravenna

Publisher Linda Wykes, printed by Riverside Press, 22 Louisa Street E., Thornbury. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to info@visitblue.ca for inclusion in the newsletter by each Friday. Advertising rates are available by calling 519-599-3345 or www.visitblue.ca

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER This newsletter is mailed to residents in The Blue Mountains the first week of each month

DONATE - Through our website link; email transfer to info@visitblue.ca or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 387, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: We ask that letters be no longer than 250 words, and adhere to standards of fairness, accuracy, legality and civility. Beyond that, we select letters on the basis of timeliness, relevance and diversity and reserve the right to not publish.

ARTICLES are from media releases or those that are submitted acknowledge the author.

Eligibility Expands for Third Dose – COVID-19 Vaccine

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, Ontario is expanding eligibility for booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional high-risk groups. Current eligible populations are still eligible.

For a complete new eligibility list, please visit: Ontario Expanding Booster Eligibility to More Ontarians | Ontario Newsroom, and here: COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose (gov.on.ca)

- Individuals aged 70 and over (based on calendar year, not date of birth)
- Eligible Healthcare workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings
 - All Hospital and Acute Care Staff
 - All patient facing healthcare workers/staff involved in the COVID-19 response
 - Medical First Responders
 - Healthcare workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (Assisted Living, correctional settings, shelters, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, supportive housing, hospice and palliative care settings
 - Home and Community Care health care workers, providing in-person care
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (Astra Zeneca), or one dose of Janssen vaccine.
- Indigenous, Metis and Inuit adults (over 18 years of age), and any household members

All newly eligible groups must wait 6 months (168 days minimum) following their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in order to be eligible for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. (example: If you got your second dose of your vaccine on June 1st, 2021, you are eligible for a booster dose on November 16th, 2021.)

The Grey and Bruce Health Unit will host vaccine clinics at municipal locations such as arenas and community centres on a regular basis.

Following Nov 5, appointments will be required to access these clinics due to the anticipated volume. Appointments will be booked using the Provincial booking system – online and via the telephone.

Beginning November 6th, 2021, eligible individuals will be able to book their booster dose appointment through the COVID-19 Vaccination Portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, effective at 8:00am. If local clinics are not viewable on this date, they will be added in the coming days. Please do not call the Health Unit to try to book your appointment. You will not be able to get your 3rd dose without an appointment.

COVID-19 Vaccination Portal - covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine
Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre - 1-833-943-3900

Clarksburg Tour of Lights

A COMMUNITY SPIRIT RAISING INITIATIVE

Saturday, December 11, 6pm
until January 1st.

for information

www.visitclarksburg.ca or call Sarah at 226-665-0401

Clarksburg Village Association



Thornbury Jazzworks

We continue our JAZZ AT THE LIBRARY Fall 2021 Series with Canadian Jazz Luminary and Collingwood Native, John MacMurchy, who returns to JATL on **November 19, 2021** at 7:30 pm for \$30 per attendee at the L.E. Shore Library in Thornbury. John, supported by Richard Whiteman on piano and Jack McFadden on bass, will pay tribute to the great PAUL DESMOND. A founding member of the Dave Brubeck Quarter, Paul Desmond was known for his "dry martini" tone and lyrical solos. He gave us tunes like Take Five, which was the only instrumental jazz tune to ever make the Top 10 in the Hit parade. email thornburyjazz@gmail.com to reserve a space.

THE BLUE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY NOVEMBER 2021

DIY Tea Blend Kit with The Valley Alchemist

November 1-30 | Registration Required
BMPL has teamed up with The Valley Alchemist. Experience the joy of creating your own healthy and delicious tea blends with your very own Take & Make DIY Tea Blend Kit. Sign up online, while supplies last.



Adventures in Digital Arts: Youth

November 13 | 10:00am | L.E. Shore Gallery | Registration Required
The Blue Mountains Creator Space and BMPL present a digital arts workshop for youth ages 8-13 years old. Learn photography, editing, and how to cartoon. Limited numbers, so sign up while you can!



Winter Birding with David T. Chapman

November 30 | 7:00pm | BMPLYoutube
Learn about bird watching in the colder months of winter. This exciting program will provide insight for viewing beautiful birds in the cold season whether you enjoy bird watching along hiking trails or in your own backyard.



Seniors Exercise

Mondays | 10:00am
Facebook



Museum From Home

Mondays | 12:30pm
CHD Facebook & Twitter

Kids Clubhouse

Tuesdays | 4:00pm
Zoom



Wired Wednesday

Wednesdays | 1:00pm
Facebook & YouTube

Bedtime Story Time

Wednesdays | 7:00pm
Facebook & YouTube

Digital Book Club

Thursdays | 1:00pm
Facebook

Outdoor Story Time

Fridays | 11:00am
L.E. Shore Lawn (wear a sweater!)



Favourite Fossils

Fridays | 5:00pm
CHD Facebook & Twitter

Trivia Game Night

Fridays | 7:00pm
Facebook



101 Things about CHD

Thursdays | 9:30am
Zoom



Letters to Santa

Nov 22-Dec 2
Drop off your letter to the North Pole Mailbox at L.E. Shore.



TWAG (Tweens)

Nov 25 | 4:00pm
L.E. Shore

For more information or to register for events visit the **Event Calendar** on our website. www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca



FOCUS GROUPS

NOVEMBER

Educators	Nov. 3	3:45pm
East End*	Nov. 6	10:00am
Arts and Culture	Nov. 10	6:00pm
Open Topic*	Nov. 13	10:00am
Open Topic	Nov. 17	6:00pm
Tween	Nov. 25	4:00pm

Register Online: www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca/Community-Consultation.cfm

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2021 - 7:30PM

John MacMurchy Trio

A TRIBUTE TO

PAUL DESMOND

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John MacMurchy
saxophone



Richard Whiteman
piano



Jack McFadden
bass

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PROCEEDS SUPPORT STUDENT MUSIC EDUCATION



BRUCE HUTTON PARKINSON (WWI)

Private Bruce Hutton Parkinson was born April 29, 1895 in Thornbury Ontario to Harry C. and Hannah E. Parkinson; brother to Fredrick V. Parkinson. Local resident Dorothy (nee Parkinson) Russell is Bruce's niece.

Bruce worked as a bank clerk. He enlisted on Nov 2, 1916 in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the age of 21.

He served as a Gunner with the 76th Depot Battery C.F.A., Canadian Garrison Artillery 3rd Canadian Service Battery and 107th Canadian Service Battery. Regimental Number 1250167. He was originally sent overseas April 11, 1917 and was mentioned in dispatches.

He was killed in action Aug 13, 1917 in France or Belgium (one record mentions Lens, France at the age of 22 years) and was laid to rest in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

He is remembered in the Clarksburg -Thornbury war Memorials.



Thornbury, May 24th, 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parkinson,

Dear Friends:-

The Council and your fellow townspeople now assembled desire to express their deep sense of obligation to you and the members of your family, for the splendid service your noble son rendered to King and Empire in the recent great war.

To day we wish to do honor to him and to place on record our appreciation of his patriotism and devotion to the principles of Justice and Right for which we stand and for which he so bravely fought.

We are not unmindful of the irreparable loss you have been called upon to sustain, nor are we regardless of the fact that his place can no more be filled in your heart and home and our town. You, however, have the great satisfaction of knowing that the service he gave and the supreme sacrifice he made was not in vain. His loyalty and sense of duty have linked him with the noble and numberless heroes, "who dreaded not the battle field but went to make fierce vandals yield" and who learned that, "greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends".

That his memory and splendid victorious service shall not be allowed to be forgotten, we present to you, in his name and for his sake, this medal, as a small evidence and token of our love for and remembrance of him whose name is engraved thereon.

With our united and heartfelt sympathy which we now proffer, we pray may be added the unfailing comfort of Him, whom, whether present or absent, we call,

"Our Father."

On behalf of the Council and Citizens of the Town of Thornbury,

Mayor. *Wm Redwell*



YOUTH REMEMBRANCE CONTESTS

Fostering Remembrance is a part of everything we do. Through The Royal Canadian Legion's longstanding annual Poster and Literary Contests, Canadian school children honour Canada's Veterans through creative art and writing, and help perpetuate Remembrance.

Poster and Literary Contests

The Royal Canadian Legion, in partnership with schools across the country and with The Legion National Foundation, promote remembrance and support youth education through the annual poster and literary contests. Students in Grades 1 through 12 are invited to submit their creative works, with a focus on Remembrance, through their local school to be entered into Legion Branch contests. Winning entries move forward to the Legion's Provincial level contests. Finalists are then forwarded to the Legion National Foundation in Ottawa to be judged at the national level.

Participate

Local Legion Branches determine the Poster and Literary Contests deadlines for entries. Contact your local Branch for details.

The contests are divided into four categories:

Senior: Grades 10, 11, 12

Intermediate: Grades 7, 8, 9

Junior: Grades 4, 5, 6

Primary: Grades 1, 2, 3 (Poster Contest only)

The Poster Contest is divided into two categories: colour and black and white. The Literary Contest is divided into two categories: essay and poem. Entries are submitted at the Branch level and winning entries proceed to the provincial and then national level.



1-866-435-1809 • TERRYDOWDALLMP.CA • TERRY.DOWDALL@PARL.GC.CA

Honouring local Second World War Veteran: VERNON CAMERON FREDERICK JOHNSON (June 26, 1919-October 4, 2000)

With each passing year, the stories of those who served our country in various wars, become richer and more precious. Remembrance Day provides an occasion to lift up the names of those who served, and to share some of their unique stories which otherwise gradually become forgotten.

Vernon Johnson served in the Second World War. Except for his time overseas, he lived his entire life on the Johnson family farm on the Sixth Line of the Blue Mountains (just north of Grey Road 119) until he moved in 1997 to Errinrung Retirement Home.

In August 1999, I had a lengthy visit with Vernon (who was a first cousin to my father Francis McKinlay) and as he told facts and stories from his military life, I wrote.

In November 1940, Vernon enrolled with the Grey and Simcoe Foresters, but his work on the family farm or for nearby neighbours continued without interruption. One early Spring Day, April 8, 1942, his sister phoned the McKinlay home where Vernon was employed doing winter bush work. Vernon was to report to Newmarket the next day to begin Basic Training with the Canadian Infantry Corps.

"There were four of us, (meaning four boys in the family) the lot fell on me to go".

Overnight, his life changed as he left the familiar scenes of the Sixth Line community, to go out into a world full of uncertainty because of the World War, to fulfil his duty as a "Canadian son in the country's service". *"I felt duty-bound...the war was looking very serious".*

Vernon trained in Newmarket for a month: throwing grenades, learning to operate machine guns, marching, platoon formation, and rifle practice.

The accompanying photo was taken May 10, 1942. He had completed his basic training in boot camp and was home for a few days before heading back to Newmarket. Vernon recalled the anguish evident within the Johnson home as he was about to leave: *"my mother was lecturing me about Christian living, and was in tears, begging me to avoid the sins out in the world".* How hard for them to part. Vernon was not home again until after the war. His regiment, the Canadian Forestry Corps, went to Val Cartier Camp, 30 miles north of Quebec City, for another month of training, then travelled by train to Halifax to board a ship, taking them to England, dropping anchor in the Firth of Clyde outside of Glasgow. His regiment went north, via train, to a camp near Inverness where they worked in forestry, cutting pit props for underground mines to secure the tops of mines.

Every three months, each soldier was allowed nine days off and was given a free train ticket to anywhere in England or Scotland. Vernon visited the Scottish village and farming community where his mother had been born and went to London *"to see the sights"*.

By 1944, the war was intensifying. *"To go over, was inevitable"*. His regiment was relocated to the south coast of England, awaiting



transportation across the channel. At night, their camp was kept in complete black-out, and Vernon recounted seeing planes flying into Europe for their night-time bombing runs.

On July 25, 1944, Vernon's regiment made a night-time crossing to France. He was to spend almost a year and a half in various parts of France, Holland, and Belgium. His regiment worked with engineers repairing bridges, including re-building a bridge across the Rhine River near Antwerp, Belgium.

While the war officially ended in May 1945, it was not until November 30, 1945, that Vernon's regiment left its base near Hamburg, Germany, to go to Ostend, Belgium, and from there to cross the Channel to Dover, England, a trip Vernon recalled as *"the roughest boat trip I was ever on"*.

Vernon vividly remembered his mother's first words to him: "Thank God you're home". Vernon then hinted at the continual anguish and uncertainty with which he lived during his war years. "It fortified a person to know you had someone at home offering prayers every day."

(In the last year and half of Vernon's life, he lived with the anxiety and uncertainty because of cancer, and commented several times during his lingering illness of "longing for my mother's prayers" as he remembered how much his mother's prayers sustained him while he was serving overseas.)

As with any veteran, returning home and re-establishing himself was a significant adjustment. He had been away from the Sixth Line for almost four years, and in that time, several people very important in his life had died, including three uncles.

During his years of active military service, Vernon received a "salary" of \$1.30 per day which was increased by 20 cents to \$1.50 when he went onto the Continent, "for hazard pay". Half the cheque was sent to him, half the cheque was sent to his mother. Upon his discharge, he received an additional \$100.00.

From January 1946 until 1997, Vernon lived and farmed on "the home farm" alongside his brother Tom. In 1951, using, in part a small grant that he received as a returning soldier to buy stock or implements, he bought his first tractor, a W-6, something with which he did custom work.

Back home, life was quiet for Vernon. When the day's farm work and chores were finished, evenings were spent reading or playing checkers or crokinole. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, he participated in Junior Farmers. Each week, the family attended Rock Union Church, later Banks United Church, and then Grace United in Thornbury. Vernon joined the Masons in 1967 which provided him with new opportunities for service, and most of all social support and fellowship with others. He was appointed Grand Steward in 1987, a position that allowed him to travel beyond this local area to visit other Lodges.

I remember Vernon as one who would always greet me with a smile, who readily extended his right hand in friendship, who spoke in his deliberate, informed, and exact manner. He was a "gentleman", quiet in temperament, always courteous and pleasant.

On Remembrance Day, my memories of Vernon expand to recall his stories from, and the significance of, his years of military service. Out of a great sense of duty, he served his country for almost four years through his military service. He then returned to the Johnson farm to work the land, tend the livestock, and support his aging parents. He was loyal and committed to his family and to his immediate community. He continued throughout his lifetime to share of his treasures in quiet, mostly unnoticed ways.

Written by M. Elizabeth McKinlay

(Based on a conversation with Vernon Johnson, August 6, 1999)



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Craigeith Heritage Depot's REEL History Film Series Wins Dorothy Duncan Public History Award

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2020-21 OHS Dorothy Duncan Public History Award, which recognizes an outstanding public history project delivered in Ontario, to [Craigeith Heritage Depot](#) for their documentary film series entitled [REEL History](#) which included four short films and two virtual reality films.

The Craigeith Heritage Depot put community voices and their own primary resources to work, creating a collection of accessible historical documentaries and virtual reality (VR) films. Two of the six films are VR, [taking viewers on a dive to an 1872 shipwreck](#), and [guiding them on an escarpment walk with an Ojibway-Saugeen elder](#). The project generated a great deal of public interest in the regional history, both locally and around the world.

Learn About the REEL History Project



The project provided opportunities to share new technologies and provide access through Virtual Reality to physical areas in the community that many people would never be able to visit. Craigeith Heritage Depot worked closely with many First Nations, local businesses, archaeologists, historians, and local government. The reach of their cooperative partnerships is truly impressive, and is evidenced in the quality of content produced. The project is a fantastic example of how museums and heritage organizations can build trust with the community by engaging a multitude of voices and experiences in the process of creating new programming.

Curator Andrea Wilson's Response Video



Visitorship at the museum has increased from roughly 900 visits prior to closure to over 16,000 in-person and remote experiences. The project has dramatically increased local engagement with history and culture, while providing an opportunity for people across the world to enjoy learning about Ontario's history.

The Honours and Awards Committee is proud to present the 2020-21 Dorothy Duncan Public History Award to the Craigeith Heritage Depot and all of their partners.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index.php/categories> or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

Contact: Daniel Dishaw - ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

 @ONTARIOHISTORY  /ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY  ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA



Events for Life

hosted their first Warming Station at the library in Thornbury on Halloween night. Over 200 children enjoyed coming inside for guessing games, warm drinks, a washroom break and of course candy!! Thanks to our community partners for their donations: Tim Hortons, Foodland, OPP Auxiliary Officers, Goldsmiths, BVO Pre-School, Kabota and the L.E.Shore Memorial Library! Thanks to all the families and volunteers who made the night such a successful evening!



TBM Grants and Donations Committee Disburses approx \$48,000

For the fourteenth year in a row, The Town of The Blue Mountains has administered a Grants and Donations Program for Community Groups and Organizations who make an application for financial or in-kind support for their operations, events, and activities.

In 2019, Council authorized the development of a formal Committee of Council being the Grants and Donations Committee that includes members of Council and members of the public to have oversight for the fundraising and the disbursement of the grants and donations program. Council also authorized staff to remove the grants and donations from the Annual Budget and fundraising initiatives would be used to fund requests as determined by the Grants and Donations Committee.

The 2021 Approved Budget included approximately \$20,000 for subsidy requests. The subsidy amount is for those requests that are looking for the use of facilities and/or services from the Town. This amount is throughout the budget in various departments.

In January 2021, the Grants and Donations Committee accepted grant applications for review and consideration. There was a total ask of \$144,260 in grants and subsidies. Due to limited fundraising as a result of COVID-19, the Grants and Donations Committee reviewed and made recommendations to Council and a total of \$33,290 cash and \$12,277 subsidies were granted.

During 2021, the Grants and Donations Committee held a very successful Lobsterfest and Oktoberfest events with the support of the community that allowed for a second call out for applications with approx \$64,102 cash available and a balance of \$7,723 in the subsidy fund. Applicants that received a grant earlier in 2021 were given the opportunity to submit a written request for funds, rather than a full application. The intake period was held from August 18, 2021 – September 10, 2021.

Recipients include Music in the Park, Marsh Street Community Centre, Collingwood Minor Hockey Association, Blue Mountains Historical Society Board, Beaver Valley Outreach, St. George's Community Cares Program, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation, Elora Environment Centre – Tree Trust, Georgian Triangle Anglers Association, Breaking Down Barriers, Diabetes Canada, Home Horizon, Hope Haven Therapeutic Riding Centre, Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation, My Friend's House, Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce, St. John Ambulance, Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey, Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce, Events for Life Centre, Georgian Triangle Humane Society, Hundred Acre Wood Forest Preschool, Rotary Club of Thornbury Clarksburg, Thornbury/Beaver Valley Lions.

Finally, I saw a Cougar! by Robert Burcher

Here in the Beaver Valley! I have only been looking and tracking and talking about it for the last 12 years! Ever since the first rumour of a big cat surfaced here in the Blue Mountains I was curious about this insane possibility.

On that last warm fall Sunday in October, at noon in the middle of a farm field near the Loree Forest. At first look it was thought to be a deer - the right colour, then perhaps a coyote - wrong colour and size and then as soon as it loped off into the woods I knew I was seeing something I had never seen before. It was that long streaming tail that gave it away absolutely - no little sassy white flag of a deer's tail.

Breathless. Yes, holding my breath and concentrating on that supreme moment! Yes, you can scoff and disbelieve until you too see one of these wonderful cats. I have now joined a very exclusive club of about 7 people in the area that have also seen a cougar over the years. There may be others but they aren't talking - afraid of the scorn and derision probably.

The theory of why cougars have shown up here is that we have created a perfect storm of conditions for deer. Farms that have been bought for recreational properties are almost always allowed to go back to nature. Brush and saplings grow up allowing the perfect browsing habitat for deer. With no farm dogs to harass them, the deer which are the main diet of the cougars have proliferated. There are many coyotes around acting the role of predators but they haven't kept up with the explosion in the deer herds.

During our deep snow winters the deer hang out in "deer yards" where they stomp down the snow and provide protection for each other. A veritable buffet for the cougars. We have then created a highway between the three main yards in the valley with groomed snowmobile trails. No, you won't see a cougar on the trail but the belief is that they are used at night as the travel routes. A cougar when he wants to move can cover 50kms in a night on such a path. Then to complete the perfect habitat we have the cracks and crevices of the Escarpment as a perfect place to den up. Think of Duncan Crevice Caves as a condo for cougars!

The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in your garden each month taken from the Ontario Master Gardener Calendar by John Hethrington, Past President, Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, or your copy of the 11" x 17" calendar of the full year's tips for a \$3 contribution to Master Gardeners, call 519-599-5846.



Things to do in your garden in – November 2021:

I usually recommend a little last-minute deep watering, but with all the rain this year we should be OK until spring.

- Buy discounted bulbs on sale and get them in the ground. Your extra efforts will bloom in the spring.
- Remove plants from your pots and other containers and empty the soil. Dump plants and soil into your compost pile; clean pots thoroughly and store them.
- There is an annual argument as to whether you should cut back your perennials, grasses etc., in the fall, or leave them long for "winter interest". Up here, most perennials are covered by 2 feet of snow, so you can't see them anyway. Since Spring Clean-Up can be daunting and there can be wet weather, a late spring and/or instant summer, this year, I am opting for a BIG FALL CLEAN-UP to get a jump on spring 2022. Suit yourself.
- Dig up and bring in dahlia tubers, tuberous begonias and gladiola corms, cala lily bulbs when the leaves turn yellow. Remove the soil and wash the tubers. Remove little cormlets from glad corms for more plants next year. Cure the tubers and corms for 2-3 weeks in a warm dry place. Place in trays and cover with dry compost, peat moss, sand or perlite. Store at about 5 C in a cold-cellar, or slightly heated garage.
- Try potting up some spring bulbs like amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus and force them into bloom for Christmas and/or for late winter indoor colour. Different bulbs will require various lengths of cold to flower, so read the product packaging carefully. Store the bulbs in an area where they will not freeze (about 5°C). A fridge or cold cellar will work well for this.
- Complete winterization procedures for plants, containers, drain hoses and clean all other garden equipment. To be a perfect gardener, sharpen tools and put linseed oil on wood handles. Paint small hand tool handles RED so you won't lose them next spring.
- Protect young trees from rodents by using wire collars or plastic protectors.
- Hill up your hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses with 10 inches of compost covering the stems, or use a metal or plastic "Rose Collar" and fill it with compost before the ground freezes.
- Create one or more Winter/Christmas urns using a variety of evergreen branches. Find branches with berries and add colour with red dogwood and dried hydrangea blossoms.
- Check mulch levels in gardens. Pull mulch back 2"-3" from around shrub and tree trunks to discourage rodents. Add more compost or leaves to beds if you have them. Provides winter homes for pollinators and other insects.
- Order seed catalogues for next spring.
- And finally, buy your supply of Triple-19 fertilizer from the Co-Op in Markdale for March application ON TOP OF THE SNOW on all your garden beds. Then, you will have the fertilizer when the time comes to apply it in March. Many times, the Co-Op's summer supply has not arrived until after the snow has gone from your garden beds.

Thornbury Spark/Brownie Unit



They now have 7 new Sparks and 4 new Brownies. The new Sparks are Noelle Bassin, Leeyah Champagne-Crowe, Lilah Clancy, Stirling Irani, Emily McManus, Wren Paulikot and Audrey Schnurr. The new Brownies are Molly Barclay, Alba Hargreaves, Leif Smith and Aurelia Sue. They also welcome back their second year Brownie, Ailie Donaldson.

The unit has two more girls that will be enrolled on Nov 17, Spark Rosie Fujiki and Brownie Asha Barrett.

Thank you to Brown Owl – Wenona Hammond, Grey Owl – Barb Loucks and Pink Owl – Valerie Crowe for making the night fun and to their other leaders Shiny Owl – Beverly Phillips and Cookie Owl – Gayle Holmes.

www.wienerdogrescue.com

Help us with our Vet bills please - Save us your Alcohol Containers
In the Meaford/Thornbury area -
please call Teresia for pick up 226-974-5059



~ Volunteer
~ Adopt
~ Donate



Announcement

Virtual
#GBFW22



SAVE THE DATES

Please



Check Your Tech Tuesday - Jan 4
Beef Day - Wed Jan 5
Dairy Day - Thurs Jan 6
Goat Day - Fri Jan 7
Sheep Day - Sat Jan 8
Eco Day - Mon Jan 10
Crops Day - Tues Jan 11



Brought to you by the GBFW Committee



Town News & Notices

📍 32 Mill St., Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

☎ 519.599.3131 Toll Free 1.888.BLU.MTNS

✉ info@thebluemountains.ca

🐦 @townofbluemtns

🌐 www.thebluemountains.ca

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**Town of
The Blue Mountains**
We Remember

Notice - 2021/2022 Winter Parking Restrictions & Resident Snow Removal

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to remind residents that Winter Parking Restrictions come into effect on November 1, 2021. In accordance with the Highway Traffic Act and Town By-law No. 2003-11, overnight parking is prohibited on all Town streets from 2:00 am to 7:00 am. Winter Parking Restrictions will remain in effect until April 1, 2022.

In addition, residents are reminded that Town By-law No. 2014-65 prohibits the deposit of snow or ice onto a Town roadway, including the shoulder, sidewalk, walkway, boulevard, or ditch, without written permission from the Director of Operations.

Winter parking and snow removal restrictions are necessary to help ensure that snow removal operations can be completed safely and effectively. The Town would like to thank all residents for their cooperation throughout the winter season.

For more information, please contact:
Operations Department
519-599-3131 ext. 276
operationsinfo@thebluemountains.ca

Town Launches Fire Master Plan Public Survey

To ensure that The Blue Mountains Fire Department continues to meet the needs of the community, a comprehensive review of operations and services is being completed through the development of a comprehensive Fire Master Plan.

To help inform the Fire Master Plan, a public survey has been launched to gain feedback from residents, businesses and stakeholders. To complete the survey, please visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-master-plan

The survey will be available for public input until **Friday, December 3, 2021**. Paper copies are available upon request by calling 519-599-3131 ext. 101 or at the Town of The Blue Mountains Town Hall.

The goal of the Fire Master Plan is to establish an actionable path forward in planning and preparing for emergency challenges as well as improving overall public education and safety.



Fire Master Plan Survey

Complete the survey by December 3, 2021, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-master-plan

To accomplish this, the Town has engaged Emergency Management & Training Inc. (EMT), to assist with this initiative. EMT is a consulting firm that has worked with many fire departments in developing their fire master plans, station assessments and fire service reviews.

The initial FMP information-gathering period has identified the following themes that are placing increased demands and expectations on the Town's fire services:

- Growing and changing community
- High volume of year-round visitors to the area
- Resident and visitor involvement in high-risk activities
- Difficulty in attracting, training, and retaining paid on call/volunteer firefighters

Through research and community consultation, the Fire Master Plan will examine the people, processes, and technology of the Town's Fire Department and will address key items by recommending industry best practices, current standards, and applicable legislation as the foundation for all work moving forward.

The final plan is scheduled to be received by Council in February 2022. To learn more about the status of the FMP and to provide you input, please visit the project webpage.

For more information, please contact:
The Blue Mountains Fire Department
519-599-3131 ext. 101



The Town of The Blue Mountains is excited to announce that the new Town website www.thebluemountains.ca launched on Thursday, October 28, 2021.

With a focus on enhancing the overall user experience, the new website features improved navigation and search engine capabilities to help users find information faster. The design is based on feedback from residents, the Community Communications Advisory Committee, Town staff and recommendations from the website developer. "The new website has been designed and developed through community and user feedback alongside data and analytics," says Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications and Economic Development. "Using analytics, the navigation and search capabilities have been simplified to ensure users are able to find what they're looking for and content has incorporated the use of plain language to simplify and increase readability for users."

The new website is compatible with all smartphones, tablets and computers, and meets the highest level of accessibility standards for government organizations. In addition, the website offers the ability for users to subscribe for Town news and information, and project-specific updates.

"Town staff have worked collaboratively with the Community Communications Advisory Committee to design and develop the new website and I would like to thank all residents that participated in the website user testing workshops," explains Chief Administrative Officer, Shawn Everitt. "As we launch the new website, residents are encouraged to share their feedback about its features and usability through the online feedback form, and staff will continue to monitor analytics to make further adjustments as necessary."

For more information, please contact:

Tim Hendry
Manager of Communications & Economic Development
519-599-3131 ext. 282

Notice - New Off-Leash Dog Park at Heritage Park

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to advise residents that Heritage Park has been selected as the location for the new dog park in Craigleith.

Heritage Park is located in Craigleith at 118 Kandahar Lane. The park features ample green space and a parking area that is maintained during the winter months. Due to the existing nature of the park, major landscaping and tree removal will not be necessary.

To select the site, a public survey was issued within the Craigleith area, asking residents to rank their preferences of site locations. The survey received 314 responses and identified Heritage Park as the most suitable and preferred site. The other proposed locations were Nipissing Ridge, Craigleith Meadows, and Jozo Weider Park.

Construction of the dog park is scheduled to begin on October 25, 2021, by B & L Farm Services Ltd. and is expected to be completed by November 30, 2021.

For more information, please contact:
Terry Green, Manager of Parks and Trails
519-599-3131 x353

The Town of The Blue Mountains Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

Property Locations:

Northwinds Beach – 209605 Highway 26
Lion's Park – 118 Lion's Park Lane
Little River Beach – 4 Harbour Street
Beaver Valley Community Centre – 58 Alfred Street W.
Moreau Park – 76 Victoria Street S. and 128 Alfred Street W.
Tomahawk Recreation Complex – 417230 10th Line
Heathcote Park – 236668 Grey Road 13

As this proposed Zoning By-law Amendment applies to various lands no key map is provided.

Public Meeting: November 22, 2021 at 1:00 pm
(Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams)

What is being proposed?

The Town of The Blue Mountains has received and deemed a complete application for a Zoning By-law Amendment.

The Town of The Blue Mountains is considering permitting the use of a Refreshment Vehicle on the property locations noted above.

The purpose and effect of this Zoning By-law Amendment, if approved, would be to allow the use of a Refreshment Vehicle, as a temporary use, on these lands for a period of not more than three years as part of a municipal pilot project (except for the Beaver Valley Community Centre land). The Beaver Valley Community Centre land is proposed to be rezoned to allow a Refreshment Vehicle for special community events on a permanent basis.

A Refreshment Vehicle would mean any motor vehicle, trailer, cart or similar vehicle or device used to serve food for consumption. For the purposes of this definition, motor vehicle shall not include an unassisted bicycle or tricycle operated by a single rider.

Public Meeting Information

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, this Public Meeting will be held in a virtual (online) format. You are encouraged to provide your comments or questions in writing using email or regular letter mail to the Town Clerk in advance of the Public Meeting. Written comments will be circulated to Council. Comments received at least one (1) business day in advance of the Public Meeting (by November 19, 2021 by 10am) will be read by the Town Clerk at the Public Meeting.

Anyone wishing to speak on this matter at the Virtual Public Meeting is encouraged to pre-register early, and no later than five (5) business days in advance of the Meeting (by November 17, 2021 10am). For those without a computer, a dial-in number is available. Contact the Town Clerk to pre-register at townclerk@thebluemountains.ca or by calling the Town at 519-599-3131 extension 232.

Where do I find more information?

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact Planning Services at the Town of The Blue Mountains at 519-599-3131 extension 308 or planningservices@thebluemountains.ca

You may also visit Planning Services at Town Hall during regular office hours Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Details of this proposed amendment are also posted to the Town Website. You may also request a copy of the full public Notice and view any application materials.



Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association
Box 198, Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0
www.bmra.ca

The President's Message by Jim Torrance

The Blue Mountains Council Election Commitments - Taking Stock Of Progress Made

As we approach the final year of our current Council's term, it seems appropriate to look back on the commitments the Councillors made during the last election campaign, and provide our perspective on the progress they have made in meeting them.

This is being done within the backdrop of the rapid growth that our town continues to experience. We are no longer the quiet, small community that our road side population signs would suggest. That reality is most clearly demonstrated by the stated need to execute over 100 infrastructure projects, at an approximate cost of \$200 million, through the course of the next Council's term.

- **Create Attainable Housing** - This was a component of all the candidates' campaign platforms. Developing a supply of attainable housing units is recognized as a critical element in maintaining the diversity and vibrancy of the Town of Blue Mountains.

However, the purchase of the Gateway site for an attainable housing project came as a surprise, and has been a source of controversy and discord in the Town. It seems that our Council remains committed to developing attainable housing, but we must be provided with a well-defined path forward, clarity on financial obligations and a better sense of projected outcome before we can

determine whether to endorse those efforts.

- **Rebuild trust with community, council and staff** - We believe we are in a better place in terms of building trust amongst the various groups in Town. The Mayor's weekly videos have been helpful, especially during the time of Covid. The Town has conducted numerous surveys on different initiatives in an effort to try to incorporate the view of residents in program development. That doesn't mean there aren't significant areas for improvement. One is the Planning Department, where confusion remains. We also believe Town communications must remain respectful and constructive.

- **Update and implement the Sustainable Path strategic plan** - The Sustainable Path document was issued in 2010. With its focus on the environment, community and economy, it was considered a sound and thorough plan charting the future direction residents envisioned for the TBM. That helps to explain why Councillors stated their commitment to help bring the plan to life. During this Council's term, we recognize that much time and effort has been invested in sustainability strategies. However, we have yet to see a simple summary of the priorities that are being pursued, and progress against those initiatives. It would be instructive for Council to provide such an update as they head into their final year in office.

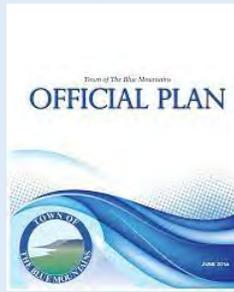
- **Create a Transportation Plan that addresses the need for Highway 26 alternative routes** - The TBM's period of intensive growth really kicked into

gear at the time our current Council took office. As a result, work had not started, or progressed meaningfully, on some of the vital strategic plans that our growth demands. None may be more important than the Master Transportation Plan, as the capacity of our current roads system is so clearly being stretched. This work must be expedited with the Province and Grey County, to avoid another 10 years of analysis and inaction.

- **Work collaboratively with Grey County** - This is a very challenging relationship, and one which is not currently meeting the needs or expectations of TBM residents. It is recognized that TBM's interests will not always align with those of our County municipal partners. The BMRA, in our 2020 deputation to Grey County Council, presented the argument that ensuring sustainable growth for TBM would benefit all Grey municipalities, and that this would require a fair level of reinvestment of our County levy back in TBM. We don't believe there has been sufficient focus on defining what would constitute "fair reinvestment" levels, and where in the TBM they should be made. We need TBM Council to table a specific set of "asks" to Grey County, and pressure them to deliver. The BMRA is fully prepared to support the efforts of our Council in that regard.

It is too early to begin talking about our next election - that will occur in the Spring - but as lead up to that time, the BMRA would like to see TBM Councillors provide an update on progress they're making against their stated individual priorities, so that we can better judge their performance in helping to realize a shared vision of our Town's future.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE – The Official Plan Review



Without a doubt, the biggest concern of TBM residents is the scale and pace of residential growth in our community. That is why the upcoming review of our Official Plan (OP) is so critical. It gives you the opportunity to provide your input, and to let the Town know what you believe will be required to maintain our quality of life into the future.

Ensuring our growth is sustainable will require an integrated approach that considers a variety of Town plans and strategies - such as Transportation, Drainage, Tree preservation, Recreation and others - that are not yet complete. That will complicate the exercise.

Also, the OP Review must move beyond statements of high level intent and objectives, and provide specifics to help guide future planning decisions.

The BMRA Planning Subcommittee identified a number of key elements which must be addressed by the OP Review. These include;

1) Intensification - Accommodating growth will necessitate some form of intensification. It seems inevitable that increased density will be required, as our community cannot, and does not want to consume more and more green space for housing. We must engage in a thorough debate regarding how we balance building height restrictions with the need for intensification, and how building design can help maintain the character of our community. This latter point is critical if intensification is to occur in an acceptable manner.

2) Environment - TBM is known for its escarpment, woodlands and Georgian Bay shoreline - natural features that are central to our economy and quality of life. Revisions to the OP must address the fundamentals of environmental stewardship, including maintaining and expanding our tree canopy, green infrastructure, and natural heritage areas.

3) Infrastructure - As we have stated many times, TBM faces significant infrastructure challenges that must be considered in the OP Review if our growth is to be sustainable.

4) Design Guidelines - The Town's Design Guidelines for new development are limited in scope and outdated. New guidelines are required to help maintain our small town character and ensure that development meets high standards in areas such as accessibility and energy efficiency.

5) Attainable Housing - The challenges being experienced in reaching consensus around where, and in what form to create an Attainable Housing development have provided a lesson. We need the OP Review to deliver specificity on the parameters and standards to be applied to AH in our community. And AH must be incorporated into a comprehensive, fully integrated housing strategy.

The OP Review has just been initiated and will continue well into 2022. This review will provide residents with the opportunity to have their voices heard. The BMRA will be directly involved to represent the interests of our members.

Stay tuned for opportunities to share your thoughts with our Town Council and Planning Staff.

KEEP THE TRAFFIC MOVING – Gain Traction with the Plan

At our July BMRA Town Talks forum on transportation, some messages from our members rang out loud and clear:



- Concerns about regarding the overstretched capacity of our roads network
- Increasing volume of traffic poses serious safety issues
- Developing alternate routes to take the strain off Highway 26 (and is it even appropriate to still refer to it as a Highway, it surely doesn't move like one) should be a top priority
- Expansion of the walking and cycling infrastructure is desired

Our members asked why the Master Plan has not already been delivered. Since our Town Talks, the Transportation Committee has continued work on the Master Plan, but it is not evident that it is advancing at the required pace. If serious progress is to be made in securing a functional transportation system in the future, getting that plan finished and moving ahead with implementation must occur.

We believe its three key elements should be:

1) Expedite the identification and analysis of the viable alternate routes - The initial Environmental Assessment for a Highway 26 bypass was conducted a decade ago. We can't afford to be looking back 10 years from now wondering when this will finally be built. It is a complex exercise as it must be developed in conjunction with our Provincial and Grey County partners. That is why this work must be addressed with a greater sense of urgency.

2) Improve the safety and efficiency of Highway 26 - The stretch of 26 between Craigeith and Thornbury gets busier, and less safe, every year. We desperately need the introduction of a mix of turning lanes, traffic circles and streetlights to mitigate the current issues. We should also consider whether 26 can handle more driveways being connected to that busy roadway.

3) Expand and improve other east - west and north - south Provincial, County and Town corridors for traffic and active transportation. - Highway 26 is not the only Town transportation route that is challenged by growing traffic patterns.

BMRA Short Term Accommodation (STA) Update

STA - Premises rented on a basis of less than 30 days

The STA subcommittee deals with problems caused by Airbnb type rentals in residential neighbourhoods. We offer advice and support to neighbours affected by disturbances, lobby to improve bylaws, processes and monitoring, and encourage appropriate bylaw enforcement.



To retain their Town commercial STA license, owners need good management practices and continuous monitoring of renters. We believe that strong penalties are also required to ensure compliance with the bylaws by some of the owners. STAs are not allowed in Residential areas unless they are given Legal Non-Conforming (Grandfathered) Status based on being in business prior to Feb. 2008. There are approximately 280 licensed STAs in TBM of which roughly 50 are Grandfathered.

On July 22th the Town passed a new Licensing Bylaw (2021-70) and an Administrated Monetary Penalties Bylaw (2021-71). Although not without issues, we hope they will help to restore our neighbourhoods to the peaceful environment the rest of the municipality takes for granted.

The Town can now enforce a temporary suspension of a Licence on an emergency basis, and special conditions can be placed on the rental to bring it under control before the licence is restored. The Bylaws increase penalties for noise and other problems. Hot Tubs are a major source of noise so the new Bylaw does not allow outdoor Hot Tub and Pool use after 11PM. Fire pits, another source of late night noise, are not allowed to operate without a special permit. We will continue to work to ensure that the new bylaws are administrated properly and enforced as appropriate.

Sharing some good news for neighbours of STAs:

For the first time in The Blue Mountains, a Licence was removed due to noise from a problematic STA at 209846 Highway 26. The neighbours have endured excessive disturbances for years from a continuous parade of poorly behaving renters. One neighbour had to finally resort to selling his retirement home to get away from the chaos. The neighbouring residents' continuing efforts to achieve some peace have included many hours of documentation and ongoing contacts with the OPP, our Bylaw department and Council, plus lots of lost sleep. The Town also committed staff resources over the years, at an unknown dollar cost, to reach this final conclusion.

[STA Licensing Committee Decision - September 22, 2021 CEAPP2020-986](#)

Hopefully in the future, with the recently implemented updated Licensing Bylaw, neighbourhoods will not have to endure similar experiences before licenses are removed. The ability to make profits should not supersede the quality of life for residents.

Who to call for noise problems.

To ensure an investigation, we recommend contacting the OPP at their [non emergency line: 310-1122](#). Keep in mind our noise bylaw applies 24/7.

The exact address is required and please provide as much information as you can about the situation i.e. the disturbance is in the backyard, hot tub area etc. and ask for and record the incident number. We also suggest advising the Bylaw department of your complaint and requesting the assignment of demerit points or other penalties against the license.

Online Interactive Map

A new online interactive map has been developed, which shows all licensed Short Term Accommodation properties within the Town. The map was developed internally by staff and provides specific details regarding each property. For more information on the Town's Short Term Accommodation Licencing By-Law, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca

If you require further information regarding a problem STA please contact us at info@bmratespayers.com

Council Compensation Study Setting TBM Up for Success

The independent citizen members of the Town Compensation Committee, first established in 2019, is with TBM Staff support reviewing the compensation provided to our Council members ahead of the 2022 election. Council compensation had not previously been reviewed or adjusted since 2009, and regular reviews continue to be a necessary best practice.

So why is this being looked at again? The compensation for members of Council in the past was reflective of a different time, and a much simpler set of challenges that our Town was facing.

What used to effectively be a part time commitment has become much more demanding for our Councillors. And with our continuing high level of population growth and the risk it poses to ensuring a sustainable future, it is critical that our Councillors possess a strong set of capabilities, and ideally reflect the diversity of our community.

To further ensure that we have the most qualified group of Councillors in the future, the Town should be determining what type of training the members would require to excel in their roles, and build that funding into their budget.

What the BMRA is stating is that having a highly capable, committed and diverse Council is of vital importance to our community, and the compensation that those roles provide should be set to achieve that type of representation.

The Town published an interim draft report for public feedback, with a final report to be presented November 25.

The BMRA will review the compensation study findings as they are released, to get a sense for whether an appropriate balance is being struck between a fair Councillor compensation package, and responsibly managing our tax dollars.



Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County

- Are They Listening to Us?

A top priority for the BMRA is to represent the interests of our ratepayers with Grey County Council and Staff. We have consistently pushed for accountability and transparency in the management of our County tax levy, and to receive an appropriate level of reinvestment of the money that we send to the County.

To support this objective, the BMRA Grey County Subcommittee recently submitted a set of requests and recommendations regarding the 2022 Grey County budget. We have created a summary of that submission, for your information.

1) Responsible and Transparent Budget Management

Protect Against Excessive Tax Levy Increases - The upcoming application of updated Provincial market value assessments, anticipated for the 2023 tax year, presents the threat that TBM ratepayers, and possibly those in other Grey municipalities, could be facing substantial market value based tax increases. To mitigate this financial impact, the County should consider enacting a policy that would limit the % increase that current taxpayers could face regardless of their assessment growth. And all Grey municipalities should ensure that their assessments are up to date and accurate, to avoid unfairly burdening taxpayers in the municipalities that have completed that exercise.

Capture Economies of Scale - Growth in Grey County expenses should be lower than the growth in households and tax revenues. This would decrease the ratio of expenses to revenues, and free up funds to support our many pressing needs. While certain service levels may be dictated by the Province, it does not mandate how the service level is to be delivered. County Council should determine whether there are opportunities to meet those standards in a more cost effective manner.

Provide an "All In" View of the 2022 Budget - County residents must be clear on the key revenue factors, which include the tax increase that current residents will experience, as well as the amount of extra funding coming in through new assessments. The sources of County revenue increases should be identified by municipality, both tax levies and Development Charges (DCs). The TBM sends a significant amount of DC dollars to the County, and given our need for infrastructure expansion to support our growth, it is imperative that the County reinvests those DCs back into TBM.

2) Planning for our Future

Prudent Asset Management - The current fiasco that Collingwood is experiencing with their water supply suggests that Council needs to assure Grey residents that our County and its municipalities won't face similar challenges in the future. Council and Staff should identify the gaps in our infrastructure, anticipate serious future shortfalls, and confirm the plans to address those issues. County Council must recognize that not all growth rates are consistent across Grey, and therefore the demands for infrastructure expansion are also not equal.

Adjusted County Council Voting Model - One option to address the discrepancy between municipality populations and tax levies, the County Council voting model could be adjusted to reflect the share of tax levies contributed by municipality - say 50% based on voters lists, and 50% based on share of tax levy contribution.

Developing the 2022 Budget - Some Tough Choices Loom

The 2022 TBM budget process has a way to go, but the idea of a double digit % increase in the municipal portion of our tax bill was recently presented to Council as a potential scenario, if all budget requests were to be granted.

While it is certain an increase of that magnitude will not be the final budget outcome, there is no doubt that TBM Council and Staff face some very difficult decisions, and current spending priorities will have to be questioned. We have heard both Council and Staff commit to finding more efficient operating practices - it is imperative that those statements lead to meaningful budget savings. The budget pressures will only be heightened as the Town determines the level of capital investment needed to bring our aging infrastructure up to date. We will have to see if they are up to the task.

The BMRA Budget Review Committee will be conducting a thorough analysis of the proposed 2022 budget, and will be sharing its recommendations in November.

Membership Matters!

The BMRA constructively advocates for responsible governance of our Municipality. Your volunteer Board of Directors and their committees apply their expertise to current local issues, reporting back to keep you informed. We provide a forum to voice matters, which are important to you and your quality of life in our community.

We appreciate the support of our current members and welcome new members from TBM neighbourhoods, agricultural community, full & recreational residents, corporate and small business.

BE Engaged, BE informed,
BE Supportive...

BE part of our community **association!**

Please visit

www.bmra.ca/join-renew-BMRA

Board of Directors:

Jim Torrance	- President
Sandy Lovell	- Treasurer
John White	- County
Brian Harkness	- Infrastructure
Janet McCleery	- Communications
Andree Lovell	- Membership
Terry Kellar	- Short Term

Winter Trail Grooming in The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains and Collingwood have decided that they will continue the winter maintenance and regular grooming of the Georgian Trail within their jurisdictions. This grooming was begun last year during the pandemic and proved highly popular.

Etiquette & Safety

With the increased use of the Trail these past two years, the GCSTA as well as the municipalities have received letters from local residents who have concerns about the number and the speed of cyclists on the Trail. In response, additional signs were posted about the need to observe trail etiquette rules, as noted below:



Safety

- When overtaking others, sound a warning by bell or voice
- Stay to the right of the Trail
- Pedestrians always have the right of way
- Do not block the Trail
- Cross driveways and roadways with extreme caution

Please note:

- Motorized bikes, snowmobiles, ATVs and other motorized vehicles are not permitted
- Dogs must be leashed and please scoop up after them
- Leave no litter

One of the biggest complaints we heard was that some cyclists fail to sound a bell before passing. The Highway Traffic Act Section 75 (5) states that on the road, a bike must have a bell or horn in good working order. However, the Act has no authority on the Georgian Trail; a bell or horn is recommended, but not required by law. Please remember to sound a warning by bell or voice when overtaking others.

And we would remind all users that the Georgian Trail is a multi-use facility and encourage everyone to show courtesy and respect to all users.

Please Share the Trail.

Trail Maintenance and Tree Canopy

Ongoing maintenance of the Trail requires periodic removal of grass and weeds growing on the trail surface, and resurfacing with limestone screenings. Clearing of underbrush in some areas is performed to reduce the need for constant trimming of vegetation and to increase visibility and safety for the trail user. And vertical clearance is maintained at a height of 4 meters to allow for emergency vehicle access. In some areas the municipalities have cut diseased trees along the Trail such as the White Ash, replacing them with other native tree seedlings.



Ongoing maintenance: 2021 photo showing grass and weeds encroaching a section of the Trail which was widened and resurfaced with new screenings in 2020.

Trail users have expressed an appreciation for the natural appearance of the Trail and have reminded us of the importance of the tree canopy for shade and wind protection, as well as a habitat for birds and other wildlife. In 2020 the Association engaged Arboreal Tree Care Professionals to identify significant trees along the entire length of the Trail from Collingwood to Meaford. Although the Trail was found to have few significant trees, the arborist report provided an inventory of a diverse number of species, and their best specimens have been catalogued. Two of the significant trees identified by Arboreal are sugar maples in The Blue Mountains, and these were subsequently selected by the local Tree Trust chapter as legacy trees.



225 year old sugar maple, a Tree Trust Legacy tree at the intersection of Tenth Line and the Georgian Trail.

You can read about Tree Trust here:
<https://treetrust.ca>

From time to time the GCSTA receives enquiries about the planting of a tree in memory of a loved one. Where such a tree can be located near an intersection or other access point on the trail, we are pleased to make the necessary arrangements for the tree and plaque, provided the tree can be watered regularly by the donor for the first couple of years.



E-bikes on the Georgian Trail

There have been many questions raised about the use of e-bikes on the Georgian Trail – what is permitted and what is not. E-bikes, as defined by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, have an electric motor not exceeding 500 watts, a maximum speed of 32 km/hour, a maximum weight of 120 kg, and must have working pedals. E-bikes now come in all shapes and sizes and are becoming much more popular as our population ages. But not all e-bikes are created equal. Some look like bicycles while others look like scooters. Some must be pedaled for the motor to engage while others can be operated simply by using a throttle on the handlebars - no pedaling required.

The general rule is that motorized vehicles may not be used on the Georgian Trail with one obvious exception being those mobility vehicles used by people with physical disabilities. The other exception is for a certain type of e-bike known as the pedelec. (from the words PEDal and ELECTric). These e-bikes are similar in appearance to a regular bicycle and the rider must be pedaling for the motor to engage and provide assistance. The Town of Collingwood passed a bylaw in 2015 to allow pedelec bikes weighing less than 40 kilograms on their trails. This bylaw has become the unofficial standard for trails in the area.



Shown above is an e-scooter, which is **not permitted** on the Georgian Trail.



Pedelec bike shown above, with large wheels - good for riding the Georgian Trail.

Thornbury's Trestle Bridge becomes the Kindness Bridge

The historic wooden trestle bridge in Thornbury is temporarily getting a new name. Beginning November 13, 2021, for the next twelve months it will be known as The Bridge of Kindness. With support for the idea from the Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association, BVO and the Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce, the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club asked the town's council for permission to change the bridge's name for one year. Their request was warmly received.



The idea is to use this heavily traversed town icon to display flags and other artifacts related to the club's Community Kindness Challenge reminding everyone that "Our Community Runs on Kindness". This initiative is aimed at encouraging community members to join together in embracing all that kindness is: being kind to oneself to improve mental health and overall well-being, being kind to others and being kind to all of nature. As we are now nearing two years of additional stress due to the ongoing pandemic, a tangible reminder of how important kindness is to everyone's wellbeing and our town's resiliency is invaluable.

Plans call for an inauguration ceremony on November 13, World Kindness Day, with Mayor Soever cutting the ribbon. Read more at <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org>

Bicycle Repair Stations

Two new bicycle repair stations have been added along the Georgian Trail, one at the Meaford Harbour entrance to the Trail and one at the Trail's intersection with Christie Beach Road in Meaford.



The above repair station, donated in memory of Stan Feldman, is located at Christie Beach Road, Meaford.

New Flashing Lights at Highway 26 Crossing

Motorists and Georgian Trail users may have noticed that the warning signs at the Georgian Trail crossing on Highway 26 were changed from a "hiker" symbol to "pedestrian and cyclist" symbols with a "CROSSING" tab below. The Ministry of Transportation changed the symbols to better reflect what a motorist might encounter crossing Highway 26. Also installed were flashing amber beacons on top of the warning signs, to enhance their visibility.

Trail Improvement Funding

As you may be aware the Association made an offer to the municipalities to subsidize improvement on the Georgian Trail. We have yet to hear back from them on any plans to utilize the funding offered. We will keep you informed of any developments in that regard.

Please Donate to the Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association

Donations are welcomed and needed to:

- Help with the cost of maintaining the Georgian Trail
- Enhancing the Trail experience for users
- Investing in trail surface improvements and drainage
- Keeping donors and the public informed and updated.

Income tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more. (issued under the charitable registration #0813576-56) Our Trail Map is available at various locations around Town, however supporters receive a digital copy of the newsletter by email.

Donate on-line at: www.GeorgianTrail.ca

Grey Bruce Climate Action Network – A Year in Review

The Grey Bruce Climate Action Network (GBCAN) began meeting in 2020 and is comprised of representatives from eight municipally-based citizen climate action groups (CATs) in Grey and Bruce Counties and Collingwood and a representative from the Grey County Planning Department. GBCAN was formed because its members are convinced that we are all confronted with an urgent need for climate action and that we all need to work together, citizens, municipal and county councils, towards Climate Change mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change impacts.

GBCAN has just completed its first Annual Report and we are pleased to share what we are doing with the broader community. The full report can be found at [www https://greybruceclimateaction.ca/local-news/gbcan-annual-report](https://greybruceclimateaction.ca/local-news/gbcan-annual-report). A list of contacts is included at the back as an appendix to the document for those who are interested in joining/starting a climate action group.

The Network gives its members a stronger voice in urging regional climate action. We share resources, strategies, lessons learned and combine efforts where broader action is needed. Two examples of our broader accomplishments are a mapping project to illustrate the progress of Grey and Bruce Counties and lower-tier municipalities toward climate action, and a letter to the Province urging restoration and preservation of the powers of the Conservation Authorities.

Activities at the local level include urging councils to develop a climate action plan and supporting that work where it has started; encouraging the development of waste diversion facilities for styrofoam and film recycling; and having input into draft Municipal Official Plans when they are being updated. The latter work is crucial to ensure that the revised versions include planning policies that will lead towards reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Four communities have set an example in our region: Grey County, where a draft Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) has been completed and a Manager of Climate Action Change Initiatives has been hired; and North Bruce Peninsula, where a CAP is being developed and a Climate Action Coordinator has been hired; the Township of Georgian Bluffs, encouraged by the Georgian Bluffs CAT, has formed a Committee of Council with citizen representation and hired a Climate Action Coordinator to draft a CAP; and the Owen Sound CAT has been working with council to apply a strong climate

lens to their revised Official Plan and to work towards a CAP. These are a few examples of the successes achieved by persistent local activities of GBCAN member groups.

We are looking forward to another year of working with the Counties of Grey and Bruce and our home municipalities. We have developed communication tools to connect with the broader public; there are draft Climate Action Plans to review and others that are just in their infancy where we can make a greater contribution. This year there will be more draft Official Plans to review. These are crucial documents that can support stronger, more resilient communities as climate change intensifies. Our local councils and municipal staff are learning more about climate change and what can be done with the resources at their disposal. GBCAN members will be there to help, support and collaborate on all efforts on for climate change mitigation and adaption.

Groups in Grey-Bruce are working together in a chatroom



Formerly Climate Action Team (CAT) Grey-Bruce Regional Gatherings on the "Third Thursday" of each month @ 7pm

We use Keybase to work together online in Grey & Bruce counties. Keybase offers secure group chats and file sharing - no ads, no stealing your data, no breaches that spill your personal details. Collaborate on your phone, tablet, or laptop. You can learn more on the Keybase Website.

YOU'RE INVITED TO GET STARTED:

Visit <https://keybase.io/download> to install Keybase as an app on your favourite platforms. When you have it installed with your account set up, copy this team name: **worktogether**

In Keybase, click or tap Teams, then Join a Team, and type worktogether, and click or tap Continue.

Visit the Chat section, and say hello in the #general channel! Note: You don't have to give Keybase your personal information -- you can "Skip" when it asks for email and phone information -- but clearly identifying who you are with your username and bio will go a long way in gaining trust in the chat channels.

Post-It Note Activity

It's Back! And Bigger Than Ever!

The Blue Mountains Public Library's famous Post-It Note Activity starts November 2nd and runs until November 23rd.

Grab a Sharpie and Post-It Note and share your ideas and comment on others'. You'll want to stop in and stop in often!

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Bulbs, Bulbs, Beautiful Bulbs - Work Now, Enjoy Them In The Spring

Happy Gardening, John Hethrington, Master Gardener, Emeritus

Spring flowering bulbs are the best blooming investment you can make in your garden, BUT you have to do the work NOW have beautiful blooms this spring! While you can plant bulbs into late November, get them into the ground in October or early November; water them well and their roots will grow vigorously this fall to give you better blooms next spring.

Now, what to plant? There is a huge variety of spring bulbs, different colours, different heights and most important, different bloom times. Your objective should be to use this variety to generate the longest possible period of bloom, from snowdrops in early April to alliums in June.

EARLY	MID SEASON	LATE
Snow Drops	Trumpet Daffs	Late Flowering Tulips
Crocus	Hyacinth	Lili Tulips
Anemone Blanda	Mid Season Tulips	Grape Hyacinths
Mini Daffs	Double Daffs	Giant Alliums
Early Single Tulips	Fritillaria Imperialis	

When buying bulbs, as in most things in life, size matters. Bigger bulbs make bigger blooms. Look for 12-14 cm (the circumference of the bulb) or more for daffs and pay a little more for bigger bulbs. Some online suppliers provide mixed collections of different colours that will save you money. If you order from a catalogue, get your order in fast, as some suppliers run out of the most popular kinds early in the season. Grey Heron Nurseries on Hwy 26 just before Meaford still has a wide variety of bulbs available.

Planting is easy. Select a sunny area, the more sun the better. If your garden is shady, don't worry, plant very early bulbs which will enjoy the sun coming through the bare branches before they leaf out. Your soil should drain well, as bulbs don't like wet feet. If you have clay soil, add 3 inches of sand or ravel to the bottom of the hole.

Ideally, you should have a loose soil with lots of organic material like compost, at least for the soil used to fill up the hole over the bulbs.

Plant bulbs in concentrated groups of 7 to 11 in several spots in your garden for a real show. Avoid long rows of say 20 daffs. Five groups of 5 (I know it's 25) will be more impactful. Plant a minimum of 5 to 7 bulbs in each hole, with the bulbs spaced 3 inches apart. The experts say, always plant odd numbers of bulbs 5, 7 or 9. (I'm told it's a design thing.) Check the package for the proper depth to plant, as it varies by type of bulb.

Dig a good-sized hole to an inch below the correct depth, loosen up the soil at the bottom, add a sprinkle of "bulb food" or bone meal (formula 4-10-4, make sure it's a big middle number) and mix it in, tamp down the soil, add an inch of compost and set the bulbs in the compost. Fill up the hole with more soil/compost mix, adding a sprinkle of bone meal when the tops of the bulbs are covered by 1" of mix. For our cold winters, when the snow melts away in mid-January, it's good to add a couple of inches of mulch over the planting hole. It will help keep the soil temperature more even. Pull it back in early spring and let the warm sun in. Reapply the mulch after blooming to deter weeds.

Now what about pesky squirrels, chipmunks and skunks? They love tulips and will dig up your tulip bulbs this fall and eat the blooms in spring. I recommend a piece of chicken wire placed an inch below the soil over hole where the tulips are planted and then and cover it up. You can add moth balls on the top of the soil for good measure. The key is, the squirrels can't get through the chicken wire, but next spring, the tulip stems will come right through the wire and bloom.



We, as a family, have chosen to wait until 2022 to celebrate Doug in a way that would honor him. We look forward to sharing special memories and stories of Doug's life. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Memorial Award created in Doug's memory for graduating Bluewater District School Board students pursuing a trade in their post-secondary education. Donations are still being accepted at Ferguson Funeral Home, Until we can safely gather, please keep Doug in your hearts, and us in your prayers.

Barb, Nathan & Whitney

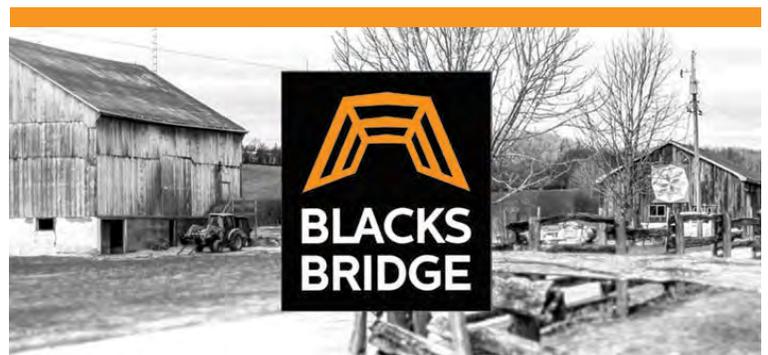
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Recipes for Life

This is the perfect time and place to share 'recipes for life' and we invite you, the reader to do the same.

Meglomaniacs beware. Don't take on so much. Don't become a slave to multi-tasking. It's not good for you. Don't try to do everything at once. It will only lead to self-recrimination. When you have a big mess, break it down into little ones. Allocate whenever and wherever you can. In other words, ask for help. When you feel burdened, give stuff away.

I am a lifetime devotee of the thrift store. It only seems sensible that many of the items I found there, return there. If you clear the decks twice a year and get rid of things you may love but no longer need, give them to friends or your favorite thrift store. It may be difficult to find friends who want your clothes, but somebody could use them. Some charitable organizations such as The Good Shepherd help people find jobs and give them clothes to go look for those jobs. I would like to know a shirt of mine helped someone land employment.

If clothes, rags and sheets are beyond repair, give them to an animal shelter. I give my beyond repair items to the Humane Society where I adopted my cat. If items are in good shape, BVO is a good option.

Lastly, you can flog almost anything on line, but you might have to put up with texts that never appear. The option of last resort is the garage sale. But it is a lot of work.

Everything has its place and it feels good to refresh your home by using simple rituals of autumn renewal.

That is the best recipe for life. jkeeler2323@gmail.com.
 Judy Keeler Writing Services
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Local Superheroes

Teenage athletes from the Georgian Peaks Ski Club give back to the community by raising money for local charity.

In the fall of 2020, Ontario was in various stages of lockdown, causing many Southern Georgian Bay businesses and institutions to shut their doors to the public. One such organization was Beaver Valley Outreach (BVO), a local charity with programs and services for children, families, seniors, youth and individuals in The Blue Mountains.

BVO's Treasure Shop thrift store, the economic engine of the organization, was forced to close, as did many BVO programs. Realizing that BVO was in need of funds, a local teenage skier, **Duncan Armstrong**, stepped up and organized thirty fellow members of the Georgian Peaks Ski Racing Team to raise money in an event they called BVO Challenge 2020. Over August and September, the athletes participated in individual and team challenges such as weightlifting, running, planking, skate-a-thons and surf-a-thons to raise \$23,835.00 for BVO.

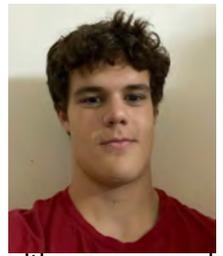
This past August, Duncan and his team stepped up again to help BVO. They organized a used ski equipment sale on BVO premises, organizing used team gear, gathering donated equipment throughout the community, and helping with fittings. The event drew hundreds of participants and raised over \$8,000.00 in a matter of hours. "We use our equipment usually for only one season, which can be wasteful," he says. "Skiing is an expensive sport. So we decided, why not sell this equipment, give people an opportunity to buy it at low cost, and promote the sport while raising money for a worthwhile cause."

Duncan, who specializes in slalom and giant slalom, is currently balancing his ski training with school, and racing in regional, provincial and national events. In the near future, he's hoping to compete in some NorAm and FIS races and ski for a Division 1 university (with a large athletic budget) such as Dartmouth and Cornell.

"I hope to continue supporting BVO, and I'm always thinking of ideas to do so," says Duncan. "Instead of just asking for money, my teammates and I like to be creative, like the BVO Challenge and a ski sale that creates

some excitement and benefit." BVO Chair Cathy Innes is grateful for Duncan's support. "When I think of the phrase 'friends of BVO', Duncan immediately comes to mind," she says. "The events he organized were highly successful. BVO owes a great deal to the community spirit and commitment of Duncan, his teammates, and his family."

For more information about BVO please visit www.bvo.ca or call 519-599-2577.



Seniors Centre Without Walls

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BVO Treasure Shop Announcement

After a Challenging Year with Covid Restrictions BVO Treasure Shop located in Thornbury, Ontario at 54 King Street is pleased to announce that we will be increasing our hours. In addition to Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. we will be adding Tuesdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. starting November 2nd, 2021.

We will still be operating with strict mask protocols and a limited number of Shoppers based on Covid guidelines. We have made some amazing changes to the store and the volunteers are working very hard to bring out twice as many Treasures for your shopping pleasure.

Fantastic Community Support from TBM Residents

We have lift off! The TBM Tree Trust seed and seedling nursery is starting to fill up with small tree seedlings, harvested from underneath the canopy of older, resilient, and well adapted trees in our area.

Many residents and landowners answered the call to offer Tree Trust volunteers the opportunity to harvest seeds and baby seedlings from older, legacy trees. Seedlings have been transplanted to the Tree Trust TBM Nursery located at Tomahawk. Harvested seeds will be cold treated as part of the germination process, then planted in the nursery in the spring of 2022.

An objective of Tree Trust TBM is to ensure older, native, locally adapted and legacy trees are not only preserved but also perpetuated. Three of the five trees that Tree Trust has cared for so far set seeds this year, allowing us to collect seed and, pending successful germination, ensure the succession of these robust, locally adapted trees. Additional tree seeds and seedlings have been harvested from locations throughout the valley including areas in and around Ravenna, Heathcote, Thornbury and the Windfall development.

Thank you to the many volunteers who supported the harvesting and planting, including Hart Needles, Mark Wilson, , Rick Kremerer, Charlie Maitland, Norine and Garth Baron, Julie and Colin Sless, Lorraine Sutton, Tobias Effinger, James Houghton, Jeannine Miessner, Linda Wykes and Ryan Gibbons. Thanks also to the Blue Mountain Fruit Company and Arboreal Tree Care, who helped prepare the nursery site, and to Town Council and Staff who, in addition to providing the nursery site at Tomahawk, installed protective snow fencing.

Establishing the Tree Trust TBM Nursery has demonstrated the power of collaboration among volunteers, local businesses and Town officials. At each step, when something needed to be done, the word would spread and the hands-on effort, know-how and equipment would somehow magically materialize. There is clearly a very strong interest in both our existing and future trees.

At this phase of the nursery project we need one more item – a

water storage tank. Any suggestions or contributions will be greatly appreciated. Let the magic of community collaboration begin!

Tree Trust TBM is a charitable organization that collects donated funds to maintain and extend the lives of significant legacy trees in our community.

You can donate or learn more at www.treetrust.ca (go to the TBM community page). In addition, we will be running our very successful holiday gift card program again this year; gift cards will be available for purchase shortly. tbm@treetrust.ca



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Blue Mountain Legacy Fund

Helping The Community

FOR INFORMATION VISIT www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca
or call 519-599-3345

---Southern Georgian Bay Residents---

Amateurs is a novel for readers who like a good drama, especially if it takes place in familiar surroundings but unusual circumstances. The author wrote it while living in a Collingwood Senior's Residence, and all the action involves the residents or the staff. It is his third published novel.

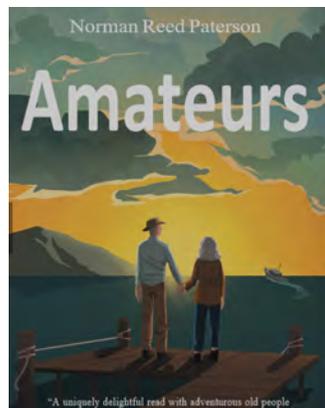
Everyday activities during the onset of Covid 19 are described with heart and humour. Meanwhile, Ted and Beth, two octogenarians with a thirst for adventure, help police solve a murder on the Georgian Trail and a serious drug smuggling operation on Lake Huron.

A tender romance develops between the two seniors as they follow a trail that leads them to Manitoulin Island and northern Michigan. If you think that life in a Retirement Home is dull and unexciting, *Amateurs* will show you that adventure is as close as you want it to be.

Amateurs can be purchased from the author Norman Paterson, Jessica's BookNook in Thornbury (jessicas.ca).

normanreedpaterson@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/NormanPatersonAuthor



Local artist supporting the Blue Mountain Legacy Fund.



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**Interim Draft 2021 Town Of The Blue
Mountains (TBM) Mayor & Council
Compensation Review Report of Oct 20, 2021**

Prior to December 2018, there had been no pay adjustments to Council Compensation in over nine years. At the 2019 formation of the Council Compensation Committee (the "Committee") Mayor and Council were paid the following:

- Mayor \$31,000 per year
- Deputy Mayor \$22,000 per year
- Councillor \$17,500 per year

Of note, since TBM is a lower tier municipality within Grey County, by statute, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attend Grey County council meetings (and are provided an annual stipend to do so); however, if one or the other is unable to attend, the Town, by statute, must have appointed a "County Designate" to attend in their place. This Designate must prepare for all County meetings whether called and has not historically been compensated for these stand-by preparations.

As a result of information gathered and thorough research by the Committee - Staff Report FAF 19.243 was developed and approved resulting in the approval of the following compensation for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council, retroactive to January 1, 2019.

- Mayor \$39,500 (+27%) and continues to receive Grey County stipend of \$21,650 – Total Compensation \$61,150
- Deputy Mayor \$29,120 (+32%) and continues to receive Grey County stipend of \$21,650 – Total Comp \$50,770
- Councillor \$29,120 (+66%) which is the extent of the Total Compensation
- County Designate compensation was not addressed in the report

Further to Staff Report FAF 19.243, it was also approved that Mayor and Council compensation was to be increased through Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLA) and accordingly the following current compensation levels are in place as of January 1, 2021:

- Mayor \$39,697.50 + Grey County Stipend
- Deputy Mayor \$29,265.60 + Grey County Stipend
- Councillor \$29,265.60

Today, the lowest paid TBM employee earns approximately \$50,000. A significant number of management employees earn well more than \$100,000.

**Proposed Recommendations to reflect a Living Wage
(A) Compensation**

- (1) That the Mayor's salary increases from the current \$39,670.50 by COLA, effective January 1, 2022 (estimated at 1.5% to \$40,293) and then by 20% in each of the following four years (compounded) to reach \$83,551 by end of the 2023 term of office (2026).
 - a. Mayor continues to receive County stipend in each of the years
- (2) That Councillors' salary increases from the current \$29,265.60 by COLA, effective January 1, 2020 (estimated at 1.5% to \$29,704) and then by 20% in each of the following four years (compounded) to reach \$61,595 by end of the 2023 term of office (2026).
 - a. That the County Designate receive an additional stipend of \$12,000 in each year that he/she is in this role
- (3) That the Deputy Mayor's salary increases from the current \$29,265 by COLA effective January 1, 2022 (estimated at 1.5% to \$29,704) and then by 40% in January 2023 to \$41,586 and then by 20% in each of the following 3 years (compounded) to reach \$71,861 by end of the 2023 term of office (2026).
 - a. Deputy Mayor continues to receive County stipend

(B) Administrative Support

- (4) Mayor to be provided with own Administrative Assistant (1:1 ratio)
 - (5) Deputy Mayor and Councillors to share two Administrative Assistants (3:1 ratio)
- Video recording October 28th - www.thebluemountains.ca
To be presented at Council November 25th

Thornbury/Beaver Valley Lions Club

2021 Annual Christmas Tree Sale

The TBVLC have been hosting tree sales as a fundraiser for over 25 years. The last tree sale project was in 2019, and we sold 220 trees. It was our most successful year.

In 2020, we were unable to provide this community service due to the Covid pandemic, and we could not secure a new wholesale tree provider. In our search, we were told that there was a general tree shortage, province wide and beyond, covering all varieties and sizes and as we were looking for a new provider, (our previous supplier retired), we would be hard pressed to find any trees available. We contacted the major suppliers, and others, and we were told to put our name on a waiting list, and make contact in the spring of 2021.



We initiated contact with suppliers in June/21, only to be told that there would be no extra trees available and that their regular customers were not going to get the quantities of trees they would normally get and that the costs would nearly double. It seems that the industry shortage of trees will be with us for 2 - 3 years longer. The feedback was not very encouraging.

Local supporters have enquired if the Lions will be selling trees this year and the good news is that we have been successful in getting a guaranteed order placed for 70 trees, however, at a significantly increased cost.

The trees are Serbian spruce. Landscape quality. 8 feet to 10 feet tall. The tree sale prices will be set when we receive the trees (3rd week of November) and the price will be in the \$90 - \$110 range.

The trees will be sold at the Chamber of Commerce building on Hwy. 26 E, next to Thornbury Home Hardware

Please come early and/or reserve your tree. (519 599 7781- Tom)

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Ontario



Events & Activities

EVENTS FOR LIFE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Expansion is a good thing! With the increase in participant numbers to 30 and with some consistent covid restrictions, Events for Life (EFL) required more space to operate this fall. EFL continues to provide on-line learning for some participants as well as outdoor activities, workshop fun and LifeSkills at the Centre.

Thanks to a new partnership with the Blue Mountain Community Church in Thornbury, EFL has use of their facility Tuesdays through Thursdays. This space has enabled EFL to expand their program to include performing, visual and creative arts as well as stream in the participants learning from their homes for music and dance.



Having use of the sanitizing machine at the church, EFL has renewed their relationship with Beaver Valley Outreach (BVO) to help sanitize the toys used at the Childcare Centre. Giving the participants purpose in the community enriches their confidence and self-esteem. The participants love projects and want to help.

They have placed over 2,000 stickers on paper bags and boxes for the baked goods from Goldsmiths Family Market. One person passes the bag or box, another puts a dot in the centre and another sticks the sticker on the dot. Teamwork!

If your business needs assistance and would like to form a partnership with EFL, send a request to: info@eventsforlife

Events for Life provides day programs for individuals with special needs living in the Blue Mountains and surrounding areas. Interested in becoming a volunteer? For more information or to donate on Giving Tuesday, visit eventsforlife



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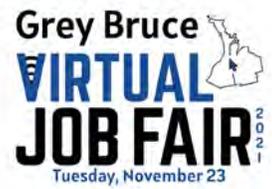
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Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair Fall Event to Address Labour Shortages



In response to local labour shortages, partners of the Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair are planning a Fall edition to be held on **Tuesday, November 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Employers can now register for a virtual booth at grey.ca/job-fair. Spaces are limited.

Registration for job seekers will open the first week of November. Registering early for the event guarantees virtual entry and also allows employers to view resumes and profiles and schedule interviews in advance of the job fair. YMCA Employment Services and VPI Working Solutions are available to assist job seekers with writing/updating their resume, preparing for a virtual interview, building their online profile within the virtual platform, and answering questions.



HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS

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100 Pioneer Dr. Markdale, ON. N0C 1H0

Lift Operators

Cashiers

Dishwashers

Events Assistant

Snowparks Supervisor

Line Cooks

Bartenders/Barbacks

Bussers

Member Services Assistant

Fundraising Coordinator

Beaver Valley Ski Club delivers our employees a welcoming, engaging, and fast paced work environment. Our Club is the ideal workplace for those who excel in customer service and may be seeking a position that encompasses inclusiveness, a welcoming atmosphere and a friendly membership and colleague team. Full time and part time positions available, in house training provided, competitive wages, skiing & riding privileges.

Come join the Beaver Valley Ski Club Team!

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